UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/964
S/1997/656
22 August 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 58
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 21 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw to your attention the most recent acts of vandalism and desecration of several historic monuments and places of worship in the Turkish occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus, namely, the Churches of the Virgin Mary near Prastio, of Apostle Andreas in the vicinity of Kyrenia, of the Virgin Mary in Pano Zodia, of St. Sergios and St. Paraskevi in the village of Agios Sergios, near ancient Salamis.

These are the latest in a long series of grave and recurrent cases of systematic pillaging and obliteration of the island's archaeological, historic and religious monuments for which Turkey, as the occupying Power, must be held fully and exclusively accountable.

On behalf of the Government of Greece I wish to protest against these recent inadmissible acts, which form part of Turkey's scheme to extirpate and annihilate the cultural and religious heritage of Cyprus in violation of international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Christos G. ZACHARAKIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-22353 (E) 220897